

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed March 26, 2008, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on March 8, 2005; and December 7, 2005.

Claims 1-6, 8 and 9 are pending in the present application, of which claim 1 is independent. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to better recite the features of the present invention. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Paragraph 3 of the Official Action rejects claims 1-6, 8 and 9 as obvious based on the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,935,597 to Shibuya, U.S. Patent No. 5,082,336 to Munch and U.S. Publication No. 2002/0135231 to Miura. The Applicant respectfully submits that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained against the independent claims of the present application, as amended.

As stated in MPEP §§ 2142-2143.01, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some reason, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some reason to do so found either explicitly or implicitly in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. "The test for an implicit showing is what the combined teachings, knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, and the nature of the problem to be solved as a whole would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the

art.” In re Kotzab, 217 F.3d 1365, 1370, 55 USPQ2d 1313, 1317 (Fed. Cir. 2000). See also In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); In re Jones, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

The prior art, either alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest all the features of the independent claims, as amended. Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite the following:

... wherein when the slider is moved forward, the upper end of the first panel is moved forward and the upper end of the second panel is moved backward in such a manner that the first and second panel are rotated about respective rotation axes inversely to each other, whereby the operation section of the first panel and the display section of the second panel are unfolded to substantially horizontal state.

These features are supported in the present specification, for example, by original claims 1 and 2, and page 10, line 19, to page 11, line 18. Specifically, original claim 1 recites the following (emphasis added):

An electronic apparatus comprising a housing holding the main body of apparatus, a first panel provided on the front face side of the housing, and a second panel provided behind the first panel, wherein: ...

... the slider is provided with panel-rotating means, which functions such that, when the first panel and second panel are received in the housing side, the means raises and holds the operation section of the first panel and the display section of the second panel in the vertical direction of the housing in an opposed manner, and when the slider is moved forward, the means rotates the first panel so that the upper end section of the first panel is moved forward, and rotates the second panel so that the upper end section of the second panel is moved backward, whereby the operation section of the first panel and the display section of the second panel are unfolded to an usable state.

Original claim 2 recites the following (emphasis added):

The electronic apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the slider is moved forward to its full extent out of the housing, the operation section of the first panel and the display section of the second panel are unfolded to a substantially horizontal state.

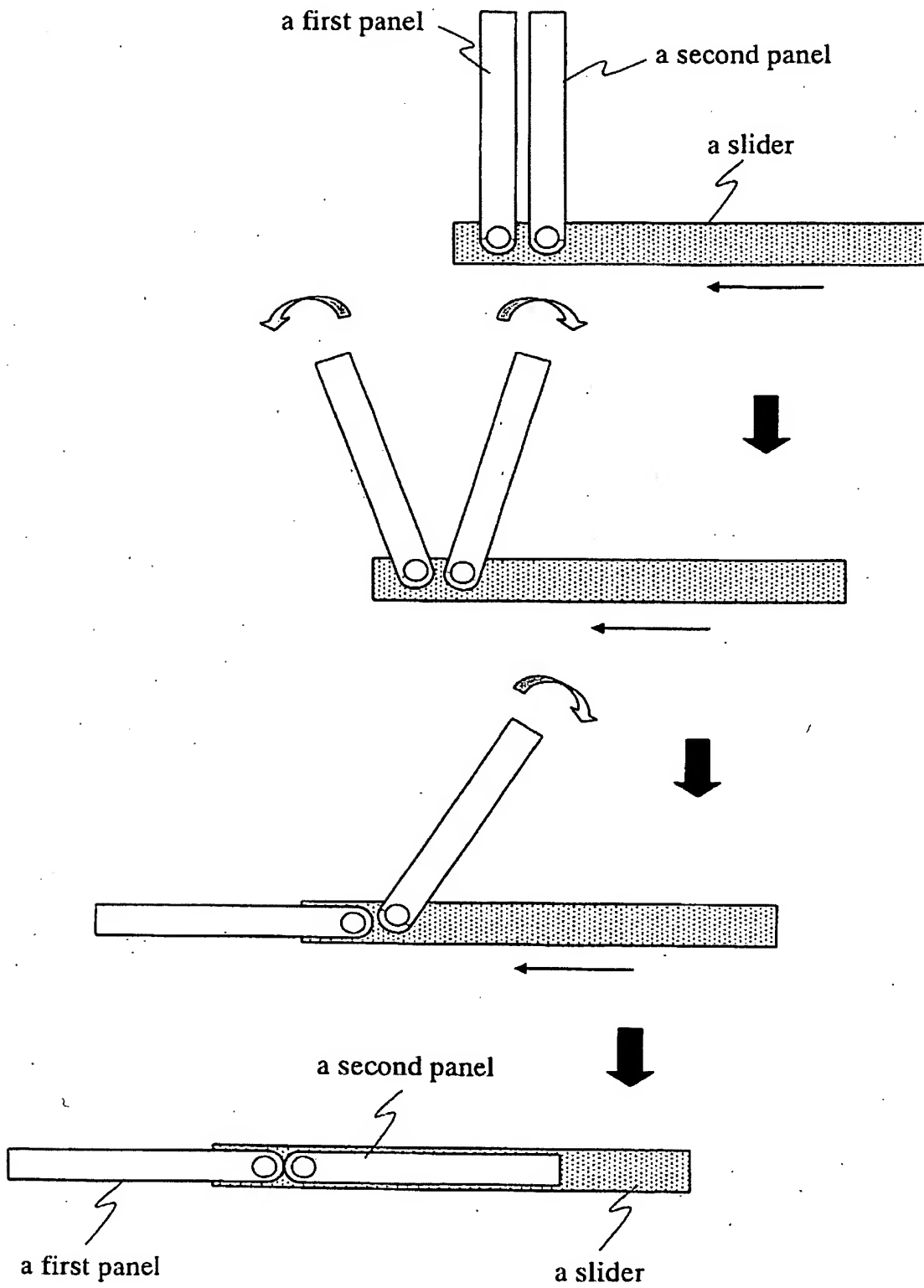
The present specification discloses the following at page 10, line 19, to page 11, line 18 (emphasis added):

Also, as shown in Figures 1(b) and 1(c) and Figures 2(b) and 2(c), when the slider 5 is moved forward out of the housing 2, the first panel 3, is rotated around the pin 3r located at the lower end section of the first panel 3 so that the upper end section of the first panel 3 is moved forward out of the housing 2, and at the same time the second panel 4 is rotated around the pin 4r located at the lower end section of the second panel 4 so that the upper end section of the second panel 4 is moved backward out of the housing 2, whereby the operation section of the first panel 3 and the display section of the second panel 4 are unfolded so that they can be used.

As shown in Figures 1 and 2, inside the housing 2, there is held the main body of apparatus 11 including reproducing units for recording media M, such as CD, CD-ROM, DVD, MD and cassette tape.

As shown in Figures 1(c) and 2(c), when the slider 5 is protruded forward to its full extent out of the housing 2, the first panel 3 and second panel 4 is in a substantially horizontal state relative to the slider 5. In this state, it is possible to remove and insert a recording medium M from/to a recording-medium insertion slot or groove 11a provided in the main body of apparatus 11 through a space formed between the housing 2 and the upper end section of the second panel 4.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the above-referenced technical features recited in amended independent claim 1 are easily understood by referring, for example, to Figures 1(b), 1(c), 2(b) and 2(c). Furthermore, the Applicant has provided below an exemplary illustration of the above-referenced features of the present claims, which shows movement of two panels relative to a slider. The attached illustration is based on the present specification and Figures.



For the reasons provided below, Shibuya, Munch and Miura, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the above-referenced features of the present invention.

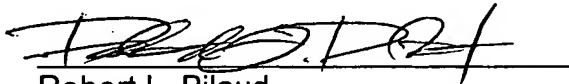
Shibuya, Munch and Miura, either alone or in combination, do not disclose, for example, two panels which are placed in a horizontal state, much less that a first panel and a second panel are rotated about respective rotation axes inversely to each other. Shibuya and Munch appear to only disclose a single rotatable panel.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that Shibuya, Munch and Miura, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest that when a slider is moved forward, an upper end of a first panel is moved forward and an upper end of a second panel is moved backward in such a manner that the first and second panel are rotated about respective rotation axes inversely to each other, whereby an operation section of the first panel and a display section of the second panel are unfolded to substantially horizontal state.

Since Shibuya, Munch and Miura do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are in order and respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. L. Pilaud', written over a horizontal line.

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